

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A vaccine for use in combatting a parasitic infestation of helminths in a mammal comprising antigenic material, wherein said antigenic material comprises a *Fasciola hepatica* protease having Cathepsin L2 activity and being at least 95% pure, or an antigenic fragment or epitope thereof, together with an adjuvant.

2. (Original) The vaccine of claim 1, wherein the protease having Cathepsin L2 activity has a molecular weight of 29 kDa by sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions.

3. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 2, wherein the protease having Cathepsin L2 activity has an N-terminal amino acid sequence of A V P D K I D R R E S G. [SEO. ID NO: 23]

4. (Original) The vaccine of claim 1, which further comprises a carrier.

5. (Original) The vaccine of claim 1, which further comprises one or more purified antigenic proteins.

6. (Original) The vaccine of claim 5, wherein said purified antigenic proteins are excretory/secretory proteins.

7. (Original) Cathepsin L2 having molecular weight of 29 kDa by sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions.

8. (Original) A method of combatting a parasitic infestation of helminths in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a vaccine as claimed in claim 1 in an amount effective to combat said infestation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the protease having Cathepsin L2 activity has an N-terminal amino acid sequence of A V P D K I D R R E S G.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said effective amount is within the range of 10-500 µg.

11. (Original) A protease having Cathepsin L2 activity or a proenzyme thereof or an antigenic fragment or epitope thereof produced by recombinant DNA techniques.

12. (Original) A DNA molecule encoding a protease, proenzyme, fragment or epitope as claimed in claim 11.